

22ND WELCOMES A NEW CSM ■ THE BRIGADE COLORS ARE UNCASSED

the

TALON



**22nd Signal Brigade Returns to Darmstadt.
Welcome Home Signal Warriors.**



new year TRANSFORMATIONS

BY COL FREDERICK A. CROSS

It gives me great pleasure to once again address each Soldier, civilian and family member of the 22d Signal Brigade. First and foremost I want to wish all of you a very prosperous and happy new year and thank you and your family members for returning safely to us from all the recent travel and holiday activities. Safety is no accident, it takes tremendous care and discipline; two traits that are clearly represented throughout this command. All of you are vitally important to this great team. Thank you for what you do every day.

The year 2007 is already becoming a watershed year for the 22d Signal Brigade. The brigade's mission is to inactivate and we have officially begun the formal process of inactivation. From mid January through mid July the 22D Signal Brigade will

conduct unit inactivation activities and procedures in support of the Army's force redesign, rebasing and restructuring plan. It is my intent to complete all inactivation activities professionally and to standard; this includes the proper disposition of all organic property and equipment own or in the custody of the 22D Signal Brigade; as well as the smooth transfer of all personnel from the unit. My priority during inactivation is Soldier and family support, and the safety thereof, insuring that each receive the best service in order to minimize the uncertainty and stress of transitioning. To accomplish this mission successfully, I need every Leader and Soldier to stay engaged and remain focused.

As you have heard by now, our USAREUR leadership recently made changes to some of the policies we have practiced throughout approximately the past twenty years; i.e., Family Time and Sergeants Time Training. These changes will be instituted throughout USAREUR in order to provide better predictability for our Soldiers and Families and to make better use of available training resources. As a result, physical training is conducted five days a week; a specific time period for STT is no longer mandated; and Family Time is no longer conducted on Thursday afternoons. Additional training holidays are scheduled to offset the loss of Family Time and will allow Soldiers and families a more predictable schedule for planning

personal business and activities. I ask you to embrace these new policies

Finally, Angela and I want to welcome CSM Graves and his wife Earlene to the Brigade Command Team. CSM Graves and I are off to a fantastic start. The Soldiers and families of the 22D Signal Brigade remain in very capable and caring hands. CSM Graves and I will continue striving to achieve great results through exceptional teamwork and enforcing the standard. My expectation remains that we ALL continue to execute to standard. As you already know, teamwork will make it happen.

Victory's Voice!

Army Strong!

MISSION →

← TRANSITION

Preparing Soldiers for
PCS movement

BY CSM John O. Graves

Now that we are officially on the road to inactivation let us begin this journey by first recognizing certain issues that we will face. A high percentage of our junior married Soldiers have never had to PCS as a family element. Facilities such as transportation, PSB, SATO, In/out processing and HOTEL accommodations will be stretched thin as well as trying to move families with school age children during the summer months. Our greatest mission-oriented goal will be laterally transferring equipment and ensuring troops and equipment are departing the command simultaneously so as not to place a significant burden on the Soldiers that will remain here after the inactivation ceremony in May. In order to achieve these goals, an aggressive pre-preparation for the PCS of the soldiers and spouses is essential as well as flexibility on behalf of servicing agencies and, of course, patience from us all. Experience in PCSing is a valuable asset which our senior leaders have a responsibility to share with our junior Soldiers and thier families through the Family Readiness Group and the ACS. Certain factors, such as out of pocket expenses, families should be prepared for. Surfing the web to gain knowledge of future post, pre-preparation checklists and applying well in advance for passports and visa's are just a few bits of knowledge and tactics that we can pass on to young families.

Leaders, not only do we owe our Soldiers and their families a smooth road to departure, we also have a responsibility to ensure that all awards are received by departing Soldiers in front of peers that they have fought along side and family members that have supported them throughout deployments and throughout thier careers. I know our time is limited in scheduling ceremonies due to mission and spouse's schedule, but please if at all possible recog-



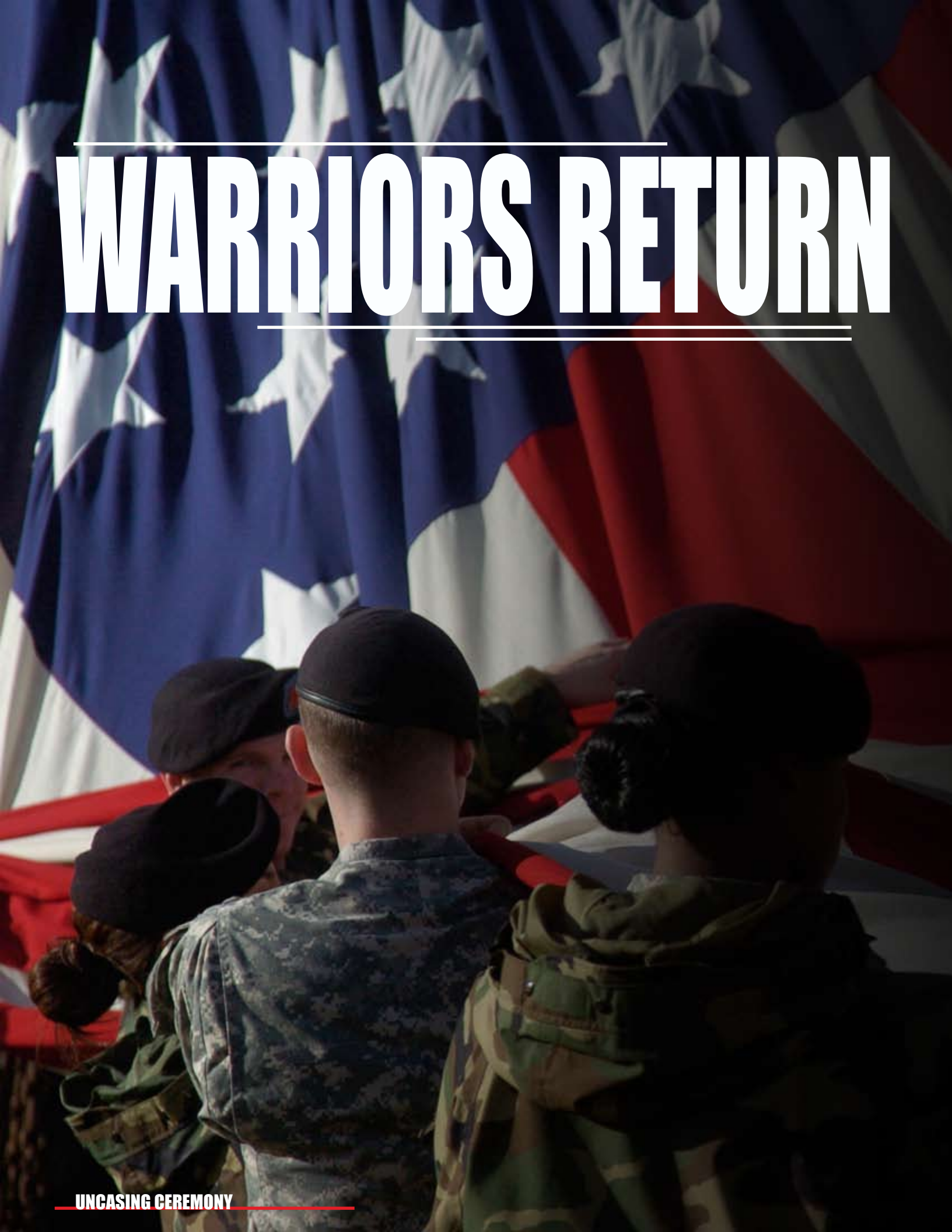
nize the spouse along side the soldier.

NCOs, it is our responsibility to ensure that our Soldiers depart this command fit to fight IAW with AR 600-9. We cannot afford to slack off on physical fitness. A large majority of soldiers will report to their next duty station to find there gaining units are

“A large majority of Soldiers will report to thier next duty station to find thier gaining units are preparing for deployment.”

preparing for deployment in support of OIF. There is a myth that upon arrival soldiers dwell time will begin which is certainly not true. We are enjoying our dwell time now. NCOs must be vigilant by ensuring that all 22d Signal Brigade Soldiers are afforded the opportunity to participate and receive tough physical training.

Earlene and I hope that as you prepare to depart the Darmstadt community, your transition will be a smooth process and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.



WARRIORS RETURN

UNCASING CEREMONY

Last September, Task Force Adler cased its colors at Camp Victory, Baghdad in a ceremony that relinquished signal operations in Iraq to Task Force Triple Threat, 3rd Signal Brigade. In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 22nd Signal

Brigade had led Task Force Adler, providing voice, video and data communications and computer networks, as well as providing convoy communications for aircrews, force protection for key facilities, training for external unit convoy support teams and personnel support for the Iraqi Signal School.

Two months later, on November 17th, Soldiers from the 22nd Signal Brigade arrived in formation at the Kelly Barracks parade field to participate in a formal ceremony that marked their return from those combat missions in Iraq. Brigade Commander, Colonel Frederick A. Cross was joined by Brigade Command Sergeant Major Thomas J. Clark and together they uncased the colors.

“We accomplished exactly that [mission] through the efforts of tremendously capable and talented Soldiers that were well trained, disciplined, multi-skilled and motivated to accomplish any task,” Cross said.

Brigadier General Dennis L. Via, commander of 5th Signal Command, was on hand to witness the ceremony as a guest of honor and as the ceremony’s guest speaker.

“We are so glad that every one of you -3000 heroes, 3000 warfighters- made it home safely,” Via said in his address to the brigade. “Our prayers

were with you throughout your deployment. And now, standing here today looking out onto this parade field, I am elated to be in the presence of hundreds of heroes.”

Brigadier General Via congratulated Colonel Cross and the Soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade for all they had accomplished in Iraq, most notably a Department of the Army-level safety award in recognition of having not lost one Soldier during the brigade’s 12-month deployment.

For their endeavors, the Soldiers of Task Force Adler were awarded 11 Purple Heart Medals for injuries sustained from enemy fire, 98 Combat Action Badges for engagements with the enemy and 220 Bronze Star Medals for exceptionally meritorious service while performing in a combat zone.

“Our Soldiers demonstrated tremendous courage, patriotism, and valor,” Cross said of the Soldiers and their awards, “[it is] all in a days work in the effort to complete the mission by dedicated and committed Soldiers.”

While deployed to Iraq, the 22nd Signal Brigade served as a subordinate to V Corps, Multi-National Corps Iraq. Upon its return, the brigade was transferred to U.S. Army Europe’s 5th Signal Command. Brigadier General Via is the commanding officer of 5th Signal Command.

On the transfer of his unit, Col Cross said, “Today’s ceremony signifies the brigade’s official return and full integration back into the Darmstadt community, as well as our transition from our V Corps family to our 5th Signal Command family.”

BOLD COLORS Soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade bring down the “big” colors following the uncasing ceremony at Kelley Barracks parade field on November 17th

BY SPC LUKE BALDWIN



Salute to Sacrifice

BY CPT KELLY SCOTT

Easily recognized by its staccato ‘Beep Beep’ and its seemingly endless amount of energy, the Looney Tunes version of the Greater Road Runner Bird still manages to convey a sense of the bird’s tenacity to thrive in a rugged, harsh environment. The 440th Signal Battalion, known as the “Road Runners”, demonstrated that same tenacity while deployed in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. Now safely returned, the unit participates in a variety of activities to include promoting esprit de corps and the recognition of accomplishments.

On Thursday, 11 January 2007, the 440th Signal Battalion Soldiers participated in an In-Ranks Class A Inspection and an Awards Ceremony. Wearing the Class A uniform imparts a sense of pride, recognition of goals achieved, and professionalism reflected in the faces of the 440th Soldiers. LTC Orndorff, the 440th Signal Battalion Commander, addressed the battalion, “when you go home, bring these [Class A] uniforms with you. Let your families take you out to dinner in them, go to church in them. You are among less than 5% of the population of the United States that has served. So let them see you.”

PURPLE HEART

COL Cross presents SPC Bell the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge.



Following the inspection, 440th conducted an awards ceremony.

Awards presented were as follows: one Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service Medals, seventeen Combat Action Badges, 53 Army Commendation Medals, 22 Army Achievement Medals, and two Certificates of Achievement. The 22nd Signal Brigade Commander, Colonel Frederick Cross, and the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, CSM John Graves, presented the Purple Heart, MSMs, and CABs. Following the presentation, COL Cross spoke to the Soldiers of the battalion and thanked them for their contributions and sacrifices, “We present these awards like we do other awards, but they aren’t something you earn ... as in by doing a great job, it’s recognition of their sacrifice.”

The second portion of the awards ceremony consisted of LTC Derek Orndorff and the 440th CSM, Master Sergeant Ricardo Weems, recognizing the accomplishments of Soldiers both PCSing and ETSing from the 440th in January and February..

This morning’s events emphasized several bedrock values of the United States Army such as personal courage and sacrifice, duty, professionalism, and respect for others. True to the Road Runner spirit, the Soldiers of the 440th Signal Battalion thrive in a challenging environment.



BROTHERS in ARMS

How the battle hardened warriors of the 32nd Sig BN Convoy Security Team are helping the 44th Sig BN prepare for a tour in IRAQ.

BY CPT MICHAEL SMITH

The current mission for the 32nd Signal Battalion is to prepare for the inactivation of the

for their impending deployment this summer.

Several members from the 32nd Signal Battalion traveled to Mannheim, Germany, in order to use their personal combat experience to help evaluate the 44th's convoy training. Evaluators looked to see how the 44th reacted to certain scenarios, such as, reacting to an IED, reacting to direct fire, vehicle recovery, and MEDEVAC procedures. After a scenario was complete, evaluators conveyed their experiences and explained how they would have reacted in such a situation. The members from the 32nd convoy team were more than willing to impart their

from the Soldiers, NCOs, and officers of the 44th Signal Battalion. The participants involved in the exercise were grateful for the 32nd's ability and willingness to create more realistic training. "This is the type of training that is going to keep Soldiers alive downrange. All the Soldiers that participated in this event are better prepared to deal with hazards they will face in Iraq," said MAJ Harris, the 44th Signal Battalion S-3.

The opportunity to share the tactical knowledge of conducting convoys in Iraq with a deploying unit was a rewarding experience for the members of the 32nd Sig-

**"Hopefully they can learn these lessons here,
rather than when they are already in the combat zone."**

brigade that will occur later this year. Meanwhile, other units are currently training for upcoming deployments to Iraq. In order to take advantage of the recent deployment experience, the 44th Signal Battalion enlisted the help of the 32nd convoy security team to assist in their convoy training

knowledge to Soldiers who will be soon deploying to Iraq. "Hopefully they can learn some of these lessons here, rather than when they are already in the combat zone," said SSG Link, the 32nd's convoy securities expert.

Upon completion of the training, the evaluators received praise

from the Soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion. They understand the importance of training for convoy missions and the impact that training could have on the Soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion as they take on the mission of convoy security. In the end, the overall mission is to bring everyone back home safe.

Supply and DEMAND

BY PFC JOSEPH WELLS

When the Commander's Command

Supply Discipline Program (CSDP) Team was established in April of 2006, the Team was headed by CW3 Anthony Rawlings and MSG Steven Musick. The rest of the team was comprised of Soldiers and NCOs from 32D Signal Battalion, 440TH Signal Battalion, and HHC, 22D Signal Brigade. Most of these soldiers

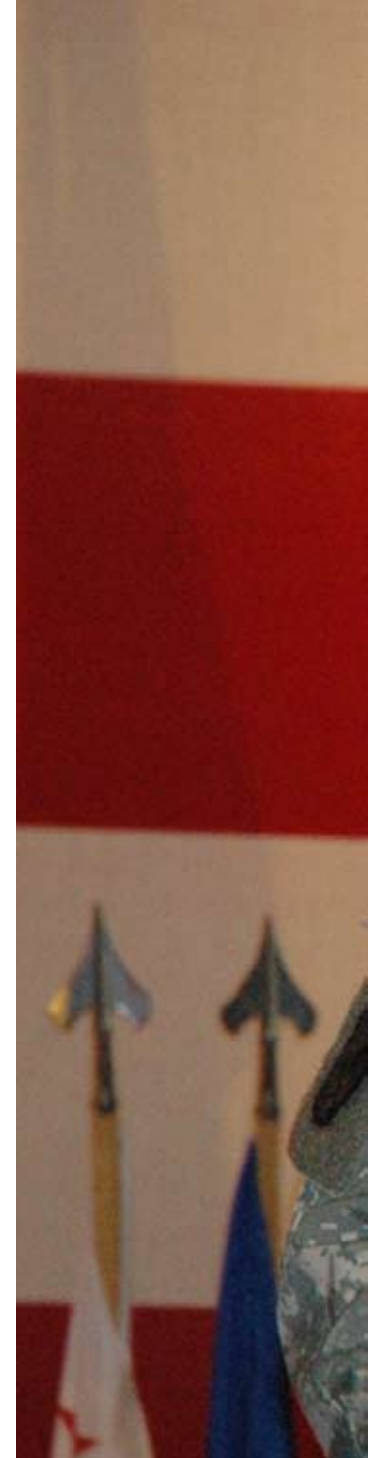


22nd SIGNAL BRIGADE, HHC

were Signal Soldiers working in the Logistics field. Two of these soldiers had additional duties as Hand Receipt Holders for 440TH Signal Battalion.

CSDP originally began organizing equipment on disposition request. Less than two months later, three major excess equipment projects were either turned in or laterally transferred to units getting ready to deploy. This included 1200 camouflage nets and poles, 500 tents, and all of the Brigade's JSList.

By June, the CSDP was a well oiled machine. It had organized its Soldiers into four smaller teams. These teams became highly efficient at turn-in and lateral transfer missions. By the end of November, they had turned in over 7,700 Property Book Items worth over \$50 million dollars.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

22nd Signal Brigade bids farewell to its Senior NCO and welcomes a new one in a ceremony that marked one final change of responsibility for a unit that is about to see inactivation

BY SPC LUKE BALDWIN

The 22nd Signal Brigade held a change of responsibility ceremony Wednesday, January 10th at the CFK Theater. The ceremony marked the transfer of responsibilities from outgoing Command Sergeant Major Thomas J. Clark to incoming Command Sergeant Major John O. Graves.

Following a sequence of events that included the arrival of the Colors, a welcome by 22nd Signal Brigade Commander Col. Frederick A. Cross, an invocation and the change of responsibility itself, Clark and Graves both addressed 22nd Signal Bri-

gade staff, family and friends.

After relinquishing his duties as the Brigade CSM and being awarded the Legion of Merit from Col. Cross, Clark addressed the 22nd Signal Brigade with his signature, "My name is Clark and I am a Soldier." Clark went on to explain that he uses the phrase to remind him of his roots as a lower enlisted soldier and to express that the welfare of the Soldiers are always at the front of his mission. Clark expressed his thanks and appreciation to Col. Cross for the opportunity to serve alongside such a great commander in garrison and in combat, and to the men and women of the 22nd Signal Brigade



for their steadfast commitment and professionalism in supporting him in missions during the OIF 05-07 rotation.

Following a long standing ovation for CSM Clark, Col. Cross charged CSM Graves with the responsibility of the brigade colors signifying his ascension as the Senior Enlisted Soldier of the 22nd Signal Brigade. Graves addressed the crowd, expressing what an honor it is to assume responsibility of such a honorable and combat proven unit. He commended

MAN OF MERIT

CSM Clark stands as the proud recipient of the Legion of Merit Award; Clark is joined by Col Cross and CSM Graves as they sing the Army Song

CSM Clark on all he had accomplished during his tenure at 22nd Signal Brigade.

Janice Clark, wife of CSM Clark, was present to receive a bouquet of red roses from Staff Sergeant Todd Parsons, the Sergeant Morales Club President, signifying her and her husband's departure from the community. Earline Graves, wife of CSM Graves, was also present to receive a bouquet of yellow roses signifying her welcome into the community as the wife of the Brigade Command Sergeant Major.



the
DREAM

Martin Luther King Jr.

The Darmstadt community celebrates the memory of a man who made the dream a reality.

BY SPC LUKE BALDWIN

At the White House Rose Garden on November 2, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The year was 1983, nearly thirty years after the Supreme Court had abolished segregation. From Brown vs. Board to Regan's bill, Dr. King had emerged as the seminal figure of racial equality. Dignified and diplomatic, Dr. King never personally bowed from his philosophy of peace while he led a movement that was often violent and hostile. In 1964, at the height of his influence on the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

In accordance to President Regan's Bill, the third Monday of January is recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Day. 22nd Signal Brigade and the Darmstadt community celebrated the holiday on Jan 11 with a special ceremony at the Escape Club. The ceremony included songs and dance, an inspiring recital of Dr. King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech and words by Colonel Frederick A. Cross highlighting King's example and influence on today's youth.

22ND SIGNAL CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH A HOLIDAY BALL

COMMUNITY

BY SPC LUKE BALDWIN



Members of the 22nd Signal Brigade community gathered at the Maritim Hotel to participate in the 2006 holiday ball. The evening began with a social hour in the hotel lobby followed by a catered dinner. Brigadier General

Dennis L. Via, commanding general of 5th Signal Command was the guest speaker of the evening. Brigade Commander Colonel Frederick A. Cross and Brigade Command Sergeant Major Thomas J. Clark also addressed those gathered. All three speakers highlighted the accomplishments of the brigade while deployed in combat missions as well as the focus on safety over the holiday season.

Afterwards Brigadier General Via presented members of the Darmstadt community with the Bronze Order of Mercury award for their contributions to the 22nd Signal Brigade while its Soldiers were deployed during the OIF 05-07 rotation. Mrs. Angela Cross, wife of COL Cross,



was awarded the Signal Corps Silver Watatchee award for her exceptional service to the brigade and the community. The awards presentation was closed after Col Cross and CSM Clark were awarded the Signal Corps Regimental Association Silver Order of mercury for their outstanding leadership of the 22nd Signal Brigade and the Darmstadt community.





THE TALON

Brigade Commander.....	COL Frederick A. Cross
Brigade Command Sergeant Major.....	CSM John O. Graves
Public Affairs Officer.....	CPT Matthew S. Parish
Public Affairs NCOIC.....	SFC Erick H. Olsen
Graphics NCOIC.....	SSG Kelvin A. Lovelist
Staff Writer/Photographer.....	SPC Lucas I. Baldwin

Illustrations and THE TALON cover designed by SPC. Lucas I. Baldwin